

**Reduction of Work in Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

2329. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to reduction of work both Ministries of Commerce and Industry are to be merged together;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be operational;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some senior posts as well as a number of junior posts in the two Departments are to be abolished;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that so many M.Ps. put up this matter in previous Session, but there is no proper answer from the high command; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Consequent upon amendment to Allocation of Business Rules in October, 1999, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and erstwhile Department of Industrial Development which were under the erstwhile Ministry of Industry, along with Department of Commerce and erstwhile Department of Supply were brought under the newly created Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(c) and (d) Rightsizing of Government Machinery is a pronounced policy of the Government and the measures formulated in this regard shall be applicable to Department of Commerce and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion as well.

(e) and (f) The matter relating to merger of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was not referred to this Ministry during the previous Session.